

Water Quality Advisory Group
January 10, 2001
Room 1319

Minutes

Board members present: John Fekete, Bill Beranek, Ron Wukasch, Bowden Quinn, John Wilkins, Rae Schnapp, Mayor Margerum and Melanie Darke.

Audience: Kari Simonelic, Steve Roush, Lonnie Brumfield, John Elliott, Barbara Scott, Mary Ellen Grey, Catherine Hess, Eric Fry, Rick Wajda, Maggie McShane, Mike Brown, Pat Bennett, Tonya Galbraith, Washear Ahmad, John Humes, Paul Werderitch, Nat Noland, Bill Ghalayim.

Introductions

Bill: Review of changes and application of proposed social/economic impact for anti-degradation demonstration. What is necessary from the technical component? Who should decide if it is important or not important? What is process? What is IDEM's criteria for deciding? That is the context of what we are talking about.

Rae: Fourth category doesn't involve an expansion.

Bill: Difference between second and fourth. Second is expansion, fourth is making an adjustment but not expansion.

Melanie: Discussion of A – what is IDEM's criteria? Haven't had a chance to have a meeting with the other folks who had comments. Next steps would be to sit down with those folks and bring back a final summary of that meeting to this group. We are not talking about setting numbers – that would differ with each community.

John F.: This is still a draft form and still needs work done. This has fairly wide distribution. Need to compile feedback.

Bill: This is discussion of proposal. Modify that and send it out for comments.

Melanie: Need feedback on the concept of this proposal.

John F.: Previous proposal – some people haven't seen both documents.

Bill: Will re-write proposal. Read this for background.

John F.: End point on this discussion is to do something with it. Give IDEM several different ideas.

Introductions of Mayor Margerum and Rae Schanpp.

Mayor: Concept of local input and control is an important one. I'm in support of this concept.

John F.: IDEM, as a technical agency, needs to evaluate social/economic impact. Melanie and Bill have done a good job to incorporate information from the last few months. Where are we going with WQAG? Sunset date of March and no later than April. Tap into Tom Simon and Scott Ireland for sediment criteria.

Bill: We need to write one paragraph stating the one question we are trying to ask. We are interested in how we use this as an enforceable standard. Present text for that question at next meeting.

Barbara: Review of B-2. Turn over to Steve to give IDEM's point of view.

Steve: 15.5,6,7 – okay. Okay for existing mines. How show a new coal mine will not cause significant lowering. 8 – true if same body of water. 9 – hard sell to say not causing significant lowering. 10 – would apply needs di minimus. 11 – should apply to new ones only, 12 – would apply.

Pat: Some already a part of Triennial Review or 11.7. Some individuals need time for technical review.

John F.: Asked IDEM for their opinion.

Bill: This is what IDEM thinks. Give time for everyone to review and provide comments.

Pat: According to agenda, only discussing what is truly new.

Rae: What was IDEM's intention with this agenda item?

Barbara: Discuss items we don't have conclusion on. There are ones we don't have issues with that appear in all three existing rulemakings.

Maggie: Would like to hear IDEM's position on these things.

Steve: Eyes of new or increased discharge. For the most part technology based effluents.

Rae: Could we hear more elaboration on each opinion?

Catherine: Depends on existing discharge. May need to make that distinction.

Steve: Item 9 – most useful for design criteria. Already heard from EPA not a good fit for an exception.

Bill: Make an IDEM policy?

Steve: Yes, this is end result for sewage treatment plant.

Mayor: Why is this different?

Steve: If design to this criteria, don't need to go through anti-degradation. This is target technology.

Ron: Seasonal effect of ultra-violet light?

Catherine: Covered recreational season.

Steve: Item 10 – this is too big of a loop-hole. Too many types of pollutants. Too broad.

John F.: Is there any way to narrow this down?

Steve: Put into short term, temporary discharge or put under di minimus.

Kari: Would still have to meet water quality criteria?

Steve: Yes.

John F.: This may need more clarification.

Steve: Item 11 – only easily apply to existing dischargers.

Rae: Statewide mercury variance? Misleading to talk about statewide. Will have to be applied for individually.

Kari: Mercury variance – Ohio variance applies to existing discharges, function of GLI.

Mayor: This item is an exception?

John F.: Yes.

Barbara: Take this list and make modifications. Label proposed. Will try to expound on reasoning. Out first of next week.

John F.: Di minimus or significant lowering threshold.

Barbara: Talked about public participation in the monthly report. Will go back and review.

John E.: November 16th meeting at Shadeland. General permits – already have notifications.

Barbara: Two ways of initiating public participation.

Catherine: Rule requires for anti-degradation exception is under 11.7. Depending on level of public interest would determine our procedure.

John F.: Public participation definitely needs to be addressed.

Barbara: Put together that process for anti-degradation and exemptions/exceptions.

John F.: Get that out ASAP for everyone's review. Next full meeting – 2/14/01. See if we can have enough information together to come to conclusion on di minimus.

Barbara: Meeting on 26th – I suggest we not have that meeting.

John F.: Do we really need an interim meeting? Might be beneficial for just a few of us to do a process check.

Barbara: Review of action items.

Rae: Might check with Peter Dufour. When have guest speakers?

Barbara: March. IDEM will email chart out first of next week. List public participation steps and pass on.

Kari: Can audience give presentation on di minimus? What do we hope to accomplish with di minimus? How it should be. How it should work.

John F.: Yes. It will depend on what the WQAG is comfortable with. Thanks to everyone.

Adjournment